QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Collection and distribution of paddy and rice.

1. *MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the measures adopted by them for the collection and distribution of paddy and rice that are available in the State; and

(*b*) the action taken by them for the import of paddy and rice from outside the State?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Additional Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The attention of the member is invited to the Press Notes dated the 30th November 1942, 3rd December 1942, 13th December 1942 and 8th January 1943.

(*b*) At the Regional Price and Supply Board, Madras, in which Travancore and Cochin are represented, the Madras Government allowed the monthly export of 18,000 tons of rice from July to September to Cochin and Travancore; and this quantity was apportioned between the two States on their respective population basis, *viz.*, 4/5 to Travancore and 1/5 to Cochin. No quota was allowed for October; and in November the States got 15,000 tons, out of which 2,245 tons have been earmarked by the Madras Government for supply to the Rubber and Tea Estates in Travancore and Cochin. The quota allowed for December was 6,000 tons, out of which also 2,245 tons are set apart for supply to the Estates. The inadequacy of the quota allowed has been brought to the prominent attention of the Government of India and with their assistance supplies have been arranged for from some other Provinces also.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know the exact proportion with regard to territorial jurisdiction?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is not restricted. It is only a temporary proviso.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know the exact scope of the prohibition of the movement of rice and paddy with regard to territorial jurisdiction?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Division Peishkar is competent to control the movement of rice and paddy within the Division and the Food Grains Controller between Division and Division.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: My question is whether the prohibition relates to the movement from one pakuthi to another within the same taluk?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No. Sir, it is not contemplated at all.

PRESIDENT: When it was started, there was restriction of the movement from pakuthi to pakuthi and from taluk to taluk. But now the policy is to restrict the movement between Divisions only.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the Government whether there is any provision with regard to the movement of paddy and rice from one taluk to another within the same Division?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : With the knowledge of the District Magistrate and the Tahsildar, the movement can be made.

PRESIDENT : It was found that particular persons desired to move their paddy from a particular estate in a taluk to another and it was found that abuses took place. Therefore, the local authorities were armed with powers to keep an eye on such movements. So long as those movements are legitimate, we allow them, but when they are suspectable we get hold of them.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether they will be pleased to ascertain the number of applications for permits pending before the Quilon Division Peishkar?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : My information is that the Division Peishkar is issuing a very large number of permits after enquiring into the *bona fides* of those applications.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Are the Government aware that there is inordinate delay in the issue of these permits?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The Division Peishkars have been given directions to look into those applications and dispose of them expeditiously.

PRESIDENT : There may be one or two cases of inordinate delay. The persons concerned may bring them to the notice of the Head of the Administration, if their grievances are not redressed by the Division Peishkar. His time and attention is a first mortgage to the food problem.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Agastiswaram*): May I know whether the Government will be pleased to embody the spirit of the Dewan's speech in writing?

PRESIDENT: Such an educated people as in Travancore will undoubtedly get into touch with the sentiments which have been expressed today, and which will be embodied in various communiques and so it is not necessary to give any special publicity as suggested by the honourable member.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : There are certain rules connected with this question. The Dewan-President has given expression that discretion should be used in certain cases. But with regard to certain low-paid officers they want something in writing so that they may be armed with power to act in contravention of the general rule.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Necessary instructions will be given to the officers concerned.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): ഒരു പകുതിയിൽനിന്നും മറെറാരു പകുതിയിലേയ്ക്ക് നെല്ല കൊണ്ടുപോയിക്കൂടാ എന്ന ഒരു റെസ്ട്രിക്ഷൻ ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് വസ്തുടമസ്ഥന്മാക്ക പാട്ടനെല്ലുപോലും കിട്ടാൻ വിഷമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. K. R NARAYANA AIYAR : അങ്ങനെ ഒരു റെസ്ട്രിക്ഷൻ ഇല്ല.

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MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : അങ്ങനെ ഒരു റെസ്ട്രിക്ഷൻ ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയാമെങ്കിലും പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും പ്രവൃത്തിയാരന്മാരും മറ്റു കീഴ്ദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും നെല്ലു കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനറിയാമോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : അങ്ങനെ ഒന്നുരണ്ടു പരാതികൾ കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു പകുതിയിൽനിന്നും മറൊരു പകുതിയിലേക്കു നെല്ലു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനെ തടയുന്ന പക്ഷം ഒടുവിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും വസ്തു ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാക്കും നെല്ലുകിട്ടാതെ വരുമെന്നുള്ള കഥ ഗവണ്മെൻറു മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : ഇല്ല.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*) : May I know whether these instructions will be published in the Gazette also ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes.

Purchase of paddy and rice.

2. * MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the steps taken by them to secure paddy and rice for the use of this State from 1-5-1117 ;

(*b*) how far they have been successful in such efforts ;

(*c*) whether they have made any purchases of rice from British India for the State purpose ;

(*d*) if so, the quantity purchased ;

(*e*) whether people even with money do not get rice to be purchased now ;

(*f*) whether they have fixed the price of the paddy and rice of the State and also of the imported paddy and rice ;

(*g*) whether the native mill rice is sold for Rs. 40 and more per sack of 160 lbs.; and

(*h*) if so, whether they have done anything to check such inordinate rise of price ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) to (*d*) The attention of the member is invited to answer (*b*) to question No. 1.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Yes, the price of imported rice and local paddy has been fixed.

(*g*) and (*h*) Yes, instances have been brought to the notice of Government and in all such cases Government have taken the necessary steps.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR : With regard to part (*f*) of the question, the answer given is "Yes, the price of imported rice and local paddy has been fixed." There is no specific mention about the price of local rice. May I know the reason for omitting it ?

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